

Meeting began at 5:20 p.m.

Introductions of those members attending was conducted. Those in attendance were:

Deb Newman – Maine Bytes  
Rob Newman – Maine Bytes  
Joe Brooks – T.G. Higgins Business Services  
Tammy Higgins – T.G. Higgins Business Services  
Phil Pitula – Town Manager  
Ann Ronco – Old Winterport Commercial House  
John Hersey – Winterport Family Eye Care  
Bernie Littlefield – Bel Portraits  
Dustan Larsen and Debbie Peet – Molly's  
Mike Wellmen – DM&J Enterprises, Inc  
Mike Anderson – Winterport Winery  
Desiree Wilson – Winterport House of Pizza  
Laurel Coultier – The Clothesline  
Nicole Tucker – Riverside Hair Designs/Winterport Construction  
Darrell Ginn – Ginn Land Surveying

Joe Brooks spoke about the Business After Hours Meeting at My Fork Sport Bar and Grill scheduled for Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m. This is the first after hours gathering for the association. It is hoped this may turn into a quarterly get together. A reminder for those attending to bring brochures, business cards, etc. Also we will be joined by Santa and Mrs. Claus! After all, they have a business too.

Deb Newman reiterated that businesses should send any info they want on the association's website to her. It can be notices such as open houses, coupons for sales, etc. She also asked if we want businesses to sponsor the site. To remind members, the association's website can be found at [www.winterportmaine.gov](http://www.winterportmaine.gov). Comments were made that there have been many hits to the website.

Also to be featured on the association's website is a business of the month. Please bring business cards to each meeting so a name can be randomly drawn. The business drawn will also be on the reader board at the corners of Main Street and Route 69.

One suggestion was made to put the association's minutes in the actual businesses in town, shop counters, etc. to get the word out of what is going on at our meetings.

The meeting minutes from our previous meeting on November 5, 2008 were approved and unanimously accepted.

At this point Deb opened the floor to a discussion of what everyone wanted out of the association or what they felt the association should be doing. Joe Brooks noted the association needs to be a professional association by promoting the Winterport area and not just a social club. Possibly there could be a developmental committee formed to create a long range plan of what is needed in town or what other businesses the town should be courting. Lauren from the Clothesline suggested that the organization should be involved in giving back to the community by such things as fund raisers. It would also create good will between the association and community. Phil Pitula stated that anything the association can do to get business names out there is good.

Deb suggested the “Shop Winterport” theme with logo should be put in the Bangor Daily News with a block of advertising purchased by several businesses. Also we should get a reporter to do a story about the association. Therefore, if anyone is interested in advertising to let Deb know and she’ll get some pricing. It was also mentioned that My Thrill Studio has sent Deb their t.v. commercial and it is on the association’s website. So again, anything the various businesses want to send to Deb, please do so.

A suggestion from the floor was that association members have notebooks and business cards of other businesses in order to refer the other businesses. Maybe the person who gives out the most referrals would win a prize.

Also suggested (possibly for next year) is to get a better oil price from one of the local oil companies if we can get businesses to buy oil thru the association in bulk.

Getting back to promoting the businesses, it was brought up to possibly have a 5 or 10 minute presentation at each meeting by a particular business. This way members can learn exactly what it is that the business does or what they have to offer.

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Phil Pitula reminded everyone that the next Winterport Music Festival will take place Saturday, August 1, 2009 and maybe someone could go on stage between acts and promote the association. We could also set up an informational booth there.

Also suggested was to contact Ruth Moran who writes for the Republican Journal. She should be notified of our Business After Hours at My Fork Sports Bar & Grill and also for any news the association would like to put in the paper.

Deb let everyone know she is looking for volunteers to help make calls to other businesses to let them know of meetings, that they are on the website, and what the association is doing. Phil offered the phones at the Town Hall.

Tammy Higgins suggested we update the past association’s book of businesses.

Phil said people with businesses who are looking to possibly relocate to Winterport always ask if there is a local chamber of commerce, etc. and he lets them know about the association. It was further stated that the association needs to implement a welcome wagon.

Next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 6, 2009 at the Town Hall at 5:15 p.m.

Meeting ended at 6:15 p.m. with a unanimous vote to end meeting.